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DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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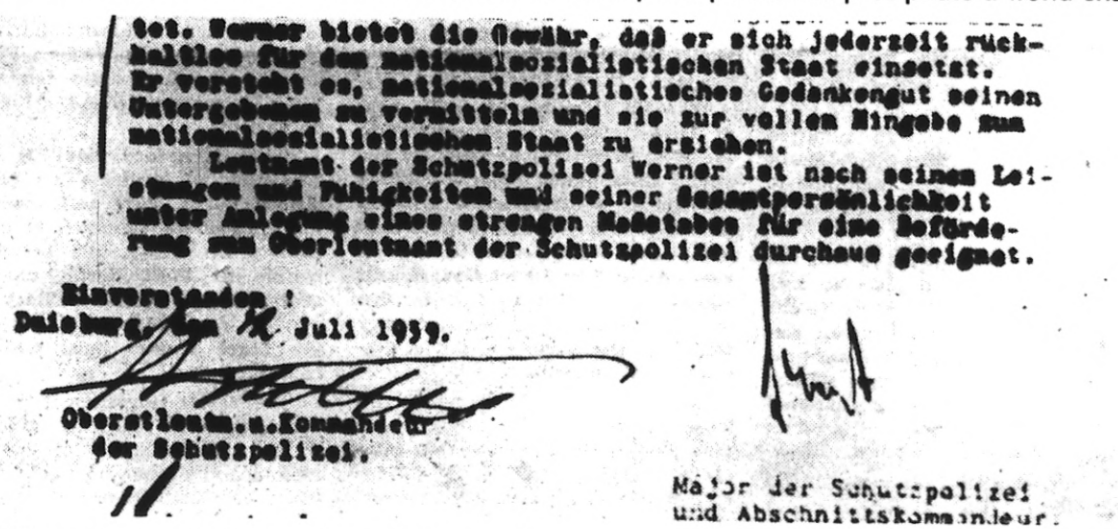
CRIMINAL COPS

Top command posts in the West Berlin police force are held by veteran nazis, SS officers and war criminals. On this and the following page, GERMAN REPORT presents evidence on the blood-stained past of three of these men, who are today in a position to precipitate a world crisis.



Lt. Werner bietet die Gewähr, daß er sich jederzeit rückhaltlos für den nationalsozialistischen Staat einsetzt. Er versteht es, nationalsozialistisches Gedankengut seinen Untergebenen zu vermitteln und sie zur vollen Hingabe zum nationalsozialistischen Staat zu erziehen.

Leutnant der Schutzpolizei Werner ist nach seinen Leistungen und Fähigkeiten und seiner Gesamtpersönlichkeit unter Anlegung eines strengen Maßstabes für eine Beförderung zum Oberleutnant der Schutzpolizei durchaus geeignet.

Einverstanden!
Duisburg, den 12. Juli 1939.

Oberstleutn. u. Kommandeur der Schutzpolizei.

Major der Schutzpolizei und Abschnittskommandeur.

"Werner provides the guarantee that he will act at any time unreservedly in the interests of the National Socialist state. He understands how to indoctrinate his men with National Socialist ideology, and to educate them in the sense of complete devotion to the National Socialist state."

(Testimonial for Hans-Ulrich Werner, signed by the Commander of Duisburg Police, July 12th 1939)

Hans-Ulrich Werner is today commander of the West Berlin Mobile Police.

Hans-Ulrich Werner, 48, joined the nazi police force in 1936, and was promoted to lieutenant two years later.

After the nazi occupation of France he served as an officer of the gendarmerie in Lorraine.

In 1943, when the nazis still hoped to conquer colonies, he was sent to a special course for "colonial police officers" at which he studied "colonial police tactics, National Socialist ideology, tropical hygiene, French, Arabic" as a testimonial dated May 27th 1943 testifies.

On July 12th 1943 an order from Himmler's HQ sent Werner to the occupied Soviet Union as "company commander of the gendarmerie for North Caucasia at present in action in the Ukraine".

Here he was attached to the "Einsatzkommando Buerger", a special SS formation charged with mass executions.

In 1944 this special formation was transferred to Verona, in northern Italy, to fight the Italian partisans. Werner was awarded the "Bandit Fighting Medal" for his work here.

A testimonial signed by SS General Kampf on January 14th 1945 shows that at that date Werner was serving as staff officer on the staff of the SS Fuehrer in Upper Italy, Central Sector. "Captain Werner is one of the best officers in my area, and I would recommend his promotion" wrote the SS General.

Immediately after the war, Werner, by concealing his war-time activities, was re-appointed to the police in the British Zone of West Germany. In April 1962 he was specially brought to West Berlin to take command of the West Berlin Mobile Police.

Details about Werner's past were published in East Berlin on August 31st 1962. West Berlin's Senator for the Interior, Heinrich Albertz, stated: "Before Werner took the Berlin post we investigated him. It is correct that Werner served for one year as commander of a gendarmerie unit in Upper Italy. The attacks on him are simply an attempt to destroy the unity of the West Berlin police, and to injure West Berlin."

Werner himself, ignoring the documentary evidence, described the details as "stinking lies".

Continued Inside

"Normalise West Berlin" – Soviet Note

The Governments of the Big Four should reach an agreement for the normalisation of the situation in West Berlin on the basis of a German peace settlement, the Soviet Union proposed in diplomatic notes to Britain, France and the USA on September 5th. "What is needed is not a 'discussion of incidents' or consultations, but a basic settlement" the Soviet Note stated.

Here are the main points made in the Soviet Note to the USA; similar notes were sent to Britain and France:

"The Governments of the USA, Britain and France have admitted the danger of the present situation in West Berlin, but have attempted to evade responsibility for the recent events in West Berlin.

"They not only refused to take the measures necessary to stop the acts of provocation committed by fascist West Berlin and West German elements, but even justified these provocations, which could have serious results for peace and international security.

"The Soviet Government had given a warning that the authorities of the West German Federal Republic and West Berlin were preparing aggressive acts for the middle of August, in order to increase tension and prevent a German peace settlement and the normalisation of the West Berlin situation.

"The US Government took no steps to prevent these provocations: the occupation authorities even provided planes with which politicians and direct agents of subversive centres were brought from West Germany to West Berlin.

"The occupation authorities in West Berlin bear the responsibility for the murder of members of the frontier brigades of the GDR who watch over the security of their Republic.

"The occupation authorities in West Berlin are also responsible for attacks on the frontier installations of the GDR made by diversionists from West Berlin, attacks in which lives were lost.

"The governments of the three powers are responsible for the military planes of the Bundeswehr which have penetrated the air space of the GDR.

"The authorities of the three powers in West Berlin are responsible for the series of acts of diversion against the S-Bahn (city elevated railway, run by the GDR, ed.) although they should know that this can produce complications for the links between West Berlin and the outside world.

"Owing to the toleration shown by the American authorities, fascist bands made attacks upon members of the Soviet Army and Soviet diplomats in West Berlin, as a result of which three soldiers were injured. It is only due to the self-control of the Soviet soldiers that these events did not take a more dangerous turn.

"The US Government, in its note of August 27th, gave its support to the West Berlin provocateurs... The Soviet Government regards this US attitude as a direct encouragement for the fascist elements in West Germany and West Berlin to commit new crimes. The Soviet Government warns that if such acts of provocation take place, the measures necessary to protect the security of Soviet personnel will be taken.

"Recent events in West Berlin have shown that the occupation regime in this city has become a camouflage for revanchists, militarists, and those who organise subversive activity against the Soviet Union and other peace-loving states. The present threatening situation in West Berlin is a direct result of the 'front-line city' policy pursued jointly and separately by the occupation authorities, the German Federal Republic, and the West Berlin Senate.

"Developments in West Berlin and the Federal Republic are running parallel to developments in Hitlerite Germany when it was arming for aggression. If developments today depended only upon the West German militarists, then mankind would already have been plunged into a new war.

"Today, however, there are forces which are capable of stopping every aggressive attempt made by the West German militarists and their accomplices. These forces will not allow West Berlin to be used for war adventures.

"The frontier in Berlin is not simply a frontier between two states. It is a line of defence against the NATO military base established in West Berlin, a line of defence against all those who prepare war and seek a conflict. This frontier will continue to be reliably defended.

"In their notes the Governments of the USA, Britain and France attempt to present themselves as the defenders of the principles of humanity. If hypocrisy were abandoned, and they really wished to show their humanitarianism, then they could use their influence to obtain the release of thousands of German anti-fascists and fighters for peace imprisoned in West Germany today, just as they were in the Hitler era.

"The principles of humanitarianism proclaimed by the Western Powers demand the immediate taming of West German revenge-seeking and militarism.

"What is needed today is not a 'discussion of incidents' or consultations, but a basic settlement. On the basis of the signature of a German peace treaty, the occupation regime in West Berlin must be abolished; the NATO military base must be removed; and the troops of the Three Powers must withdraw from West Berlin.

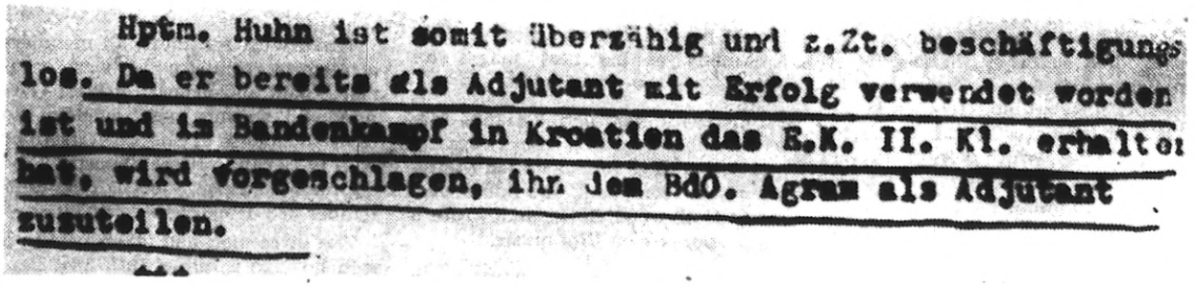
"The Soviet Government is ready at any time to reach an agreement with the governments of the USA, Britain and France on the normalisation of the situation in West Berlin on the basis of a German peace settlement. This would strengthen peace in Europe, regulate the relations between West Berlin and the German Democratic Republic, and bar all undesirable incidents."

West Berlin's "Homeland Day"

Calls to "liberate" both the GDR and former German territories in Poland and other countries were featured at this year's "Homeland Day" rally in West Berlin on September 2nd. The meeting was organised by the "Landsmannschaften", groups of revenge-seeking Folk Germans expelled from eastern Europe after the war.

Herr Matthee, Chairman of the "Landsmannschaften" in West Berlin, praised recent attacks on the GDR frontier in Berlin and said: "It is high time to throw overboard our defensive attitude and to go on the offensive." West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt also addressed the rally.

CRIMINAL COPS IN W. BERLIN



Hptm. Huhn ist somit überzählig und z.Zt. beschäftigungslos. Da er bereits als Adjutant mit Erfolg verwendet worden ist und im Bandenkampf in Kroatien das E.K. II. Kl. erhalten hat, wird vorgeschlagen, ihn zum BdO. Agram als Adjutant zuzuteilen.

"Captain Huhn is thus surplus to establishment and at present without a post. Since he has already been successfully employed as adjutant, and received the Iron Cross Class II in bandit fighting in Croatia, it is proposed that he be attached as adjutant to BdO Agram (Police Commander, Zagreb)."

(Report from nazi police H. Q. to Heinrich Himmler, Reich Fuehrer of the SS, October 14th 1943)

Kurt Huhn is today Group Commander of Police in the US Sector of West Berlin.

Kurt Huhn, 53, joined the German police in 1929. In 1939 the nazis promoted him to the rank of lieutenant, and in this rank he took part in the attack on Poland in 1939 as member of SS Police Battalion 106. This Police Battalion played a large part in the first massacres of Poles and Jews on Polish soil. Later Huhn was transferred to the staff of the nazi occupation police in Riga, occupied Soviet Union.

In 1943 he was promoted to the rank of captain, and attached as adjutant to the staff of the nazi police commander in Zagreb (Agram), occupied Yugoslavia. Here he had the task of planning "liquidation offensives" against the partisans, and all civilians suspected of helping them.

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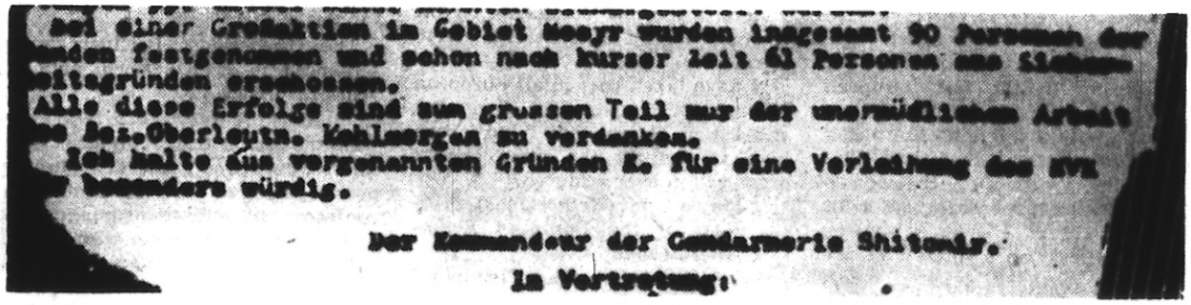

Bei einer Großaktion im Gebiet Mosyr wurden insgesamt 90 Personen der Banden festgenommen und schon nach kurzer Zeit 61 Personen aus Sicherheitsgründen erschossen.
Alle diese Erfolge sind zum grossen Teil nur der unermüdlichen Arbeit des Ltn.-Oberleutn. Kohlmorgen zu verdanken.
Ich halte aus vorgenannten Gründen E. für eine Verleihung des KVK besonders würdig.

Der Kommandeur der Gendarmerie Shitomir.
In Vertretung:

"In a major operation in the Mosyr area, 90 members of bands were captured, and 61 of them were immediately shot for security reasons. All these successes are in great measure due to the untiring efforts of Senior Lieutenant Kohlmorgen. For these reasons I believe that Kohlmorgen has especially merited the award of the War Service Cross."

(Recommendation for a medal submitted by the Commander of Gendarmerie in Zhitomir, occupied Soviet Union, February 17th 1943)

Hans Kohlmorgen is today a top police officer in the UK Sector of West Berlin.

Hans-Joachim Kohlmorgen, 57, joined the German police in 1924. He joined the Nazi Party in 1931, two years before Hitler came to power.

On April 3rd 1936 the Police President of Frankfurt (Main) reported: "Kohlmorgen industriously spread the ideas of the National Socialist Party amongst his comrades even in the days when all kinds of disadvantages could result from these activities."

On October 28th 1937 the Commander of the Field Gendarmerie School in Suhl reported: "In order to work most fully in the spirit of our movement, he voluntarily left the rural police so as to serve as a company leader in the SS Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler (nazi elite unit, ed.)"

On June 24th 1942 he was sent to command a unit of the nazi gendarmerie at Zhitomir, occupied Soviet Union. Here he distinguished himself by his outstanding brutality, as shown in the photostat reproduced above. Another passage in this report states: "Kohlmorgen has proved himself worthy in every way. His untiring labour and his logical tactical decisions have resulted in important successes and have inspired the men under him to the greatest achievements".

RENOWNED COMPOSER DIES

Hanns Eisler, famed German composer, died suddenly in East Berlin on September 6th at the age of 64. He won international renown in the 1920's as composer of the music for workers' songs which were translated into many languages. The most widely known of these songs is probably the United Front Song, with its refrain:

"Then left, right, left
Then left, right, left
There's a job for you to do.
Join with us in the workers' united front,
For you are a worker too."

Eisler worked closely with the great dramatist and poet Bertolt Brecht, providing the musical settings for many of his best songs and poems.

During the nazi period Hanns Eisler was forced to flee from Germany and seek refuge in the United States, where he composed the music for many Hollywood films, and wrote a basic textbook on film music.

After the war Eisler returned to the German Democratic Republic, where he wrote the tune for the new national anthem, as well as many symphonic and other works. He was a member of the Academy of Arts of the GDR, and received the National Prize for his work.

European Swimming Match in Leipzig Praised

Sports enthusiasts in the GDR, while full of suspense about the coming European Athletic Championships in Belgrade, are still glowing over the European Swimming Championships held in Leipzig in late August.

Their main source of satisfaction, of course, is the good showing of the GDR team. In the last European match in Budapest in 1958 their team had won only a single bronze medal (men's 100 metre backstroke). This time, with 9 medals for the women (4 gold, 2 silver, 3 bronze) and 8 for the men (1 gold, 3 silver, 4 bronze), GDR athletes won a quarter of the 69 medals awarded, a better result than any other country and a phenomenal jump since 1958. A world record and a European record for men's and women's medley relay teams of the GDR made things even better.

But it was not only the number of medals and records which gladdened the hearts of the sports fans, proud as they were of them. The unanimous praise by foreign athletes and sports officials of the Leipzig Stadium, the organisation of the meet and the 100,000 enthusiastic, fair-minded spectators were nearly as important.

The "New York Times", for example, called the championships "a huge success", adding that "tremendous crowds turned out twice every day" although "it was nearly always raining, and whenever the rain stopped it was bitterly cold... In any case the crowds packed the grandstands day after day while the rains poured down. Some fans had umbrellas, some had raincoats and tarpaulins to huddle under, and some just sat there. At times... rain fell so hard that the pool surface was beaten into a froth and one could scarcely see the swimmers at all."

Here are other comments on the championships (re-translated from German):

"I have taken part in all European Swimming Championships since 1934, and I wish to say that I have seen here in Leipzig the most perfect organisation ever achieved."

Jan de Vries (Netherlands), President of the European Swimming League

"... the best European Championships ever held."

Max Ritter (USA), President of the International Swimming League

"The spectators, who stayed on despite the rain, spurred me on to my achievement."

Anita Lonsbrough (Britain), winner of 200 metres backstroke race

"I shall never forget the many spectators, the grandstands filled day after day despite the rain, a good and a fair public."

Anna Beneck (Italy), crawl swimmer

"I was most impressed by the cordial welcome. When one has flown 12,000 miles and then is received so warmly, then one feels right at home. Best of all was the friendship I observed here between everyone at the meet."

W. Berge Phillips (Australia), Vice President, International Swimming League

West Berlin Terrorists Convicted

Three West Berliners, all members of terrorist groups which were organised, paid and armed by West German and western spy agencies to cause incidents at the GDR frontier wall in Berlin, were sentenced by the Supreme Court of the GDR on September 3rd after a six-day trial.

The three men had taken part in a raid through a tunnel into East Berlin's Treptow district on August 7th this year. They had come well-armed and ready to shoot frontier guards of the GDR. All three were arrested in East Berlin after the tunnel scheme was discovered by border guards.

The men admitted that a West German newspaper and an American television company had paid them large sums of money and had been waiting at the West Berlin entrance of the tunnel for the "escape" to take place. A police contingent and several doctors had also been ready to lend their services in the planned shooting episode.

Several witnesses at the trial told how men from the West Berlin terrorist groups had visited them, after entering East Berlin with false passes, and had tried to convince them to "escape" through one of the groups' tunnels.

The three West Berliners were sentenced to twelve, seven and six years in prison.

*

In the same trial, two East Berliners were found guilty of espionage over a period of ten years. Both men confessed to military spying; they had been found equipped with special radio transmitters to be used "in an emergency" as well as with American-made weapons. One man worked for the West German military intelligence, and the other man for an American espionage organisation. Both received life sentences.

Harvest Campaign

For the second successive year, a cold, rainy summer plagued the farmers of the GDR. This year's grain crop was rich, but with only rare spells of sunshine it was extremely difficult to get in the ripened grain because mud often hampered combines.

With so much work to do by hand, tens of thousands of volunteers and units of the GDR and Soviet armies helped the harvest.

By September 7th, 90% of the grain was cut and farmers were preparing for the equally urgent potato harvest.

EMBASSY ANTICS

W. German Diplomats "Lie For Their Country"

Case History Number One

Officials of the West German Embassy in London are resorting to an extraordinary mixture of lies, half-truths and distortions in their attempts to answer letters from members of the British public protesting about the large number of nazis in high places in all branches of the West German administration. Details of one specific case are given below.

On May 11th this year, a leading British trade unionist wrote to the West German Embassy naming a number of such nazis back in power. Dr Heinz Schneppen of the Press Department of the West German Embassy replied on May 16th stating "I am afraid that you got some of your facts wrong." Here is Dr Schneppen's version, together with a short summary of the real facts:

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1. "Oberländer, though a member of the Nazi-Party, is not a 'convicted war criminal'."

The facts. Theodor Oberlaender, West German Minister for Refugees, was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic on April 29th 1960. He was found guilty of "murder, incitement to murder, participation in organisations aimed at crimes against life, and incitement to crime". On May 4th 1960, five days after the sentence, he was forced to resign his post as minister.

The West German diplomat ignores this court sentence, pronounced after an open hearing in which dozens of persons testified on Oberlaender's crimes, apparently because West Germany has no diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic. He could just as well refuse to recognise the death sentence passed on Eichmann, since West Germany has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

2. "Globke has never had any dealings with Eichmann and is in no way responsible for Hitler's and Himmler's 'final solution of the Jewish question'."

The facts. There is no evidence that Globke had any personal dealings with Eichmann; Hitler never had any personal dealings with him either, but this proves nothing at all. Globke's personal files from the Nazi Ministry of the Interior have been published by the authorities of the German Democratic Republic, and the authenticity of these files has never been questioned in West Germany. These files show:

a) That Globke helped to draft the Nuremberg Laws, which defined who was a Jew, and which converted German Jews into second class citizens.

b) That Globke was co-author of the official Nazi legal commentary on the anti-Semitic legislation.

c) That Globke drafted the regulation that all German Jews should compulsorily take the additional names of Sara and Israel, making them immediately identifiable to the Gestapo.

d) That Globke was one of the officials present at a conference of top Nazi officials on January 15th 1941 which decided that German Jews lost their citizenship immediately they crossed the German frontier on deportation trains. This ruling provided the "legal" basis for the liquidation of German Jews. (This document was produced in evidence at the Eichmann trial).

Evidence was given at the Eichmann trial that the Nuremberg Laws and related Nazi decrees provided the basis for the liquidation of the Jews of Germany; there is overwhelming authentic documentary evidence that Globke played a leading part in drafting all such laws and decrees.

3. "Gerhard Schroeder, Foreign Secretary, joined the Nazi-Party when he was in his early twenties. He left the Nazi-Party after having married a woman of partly Jewish origin."

The facts. Herr Schroeder himself dealt with this matter in an interview with the US news magazine "Newsweek" on February 1st 1960. Here is an extract from this interview:

"Were you a Nazi? Certainly not.

But aren't you listed as a party member from 1933–43? It is true that I was a member ... but in the circumstances of the time membership did not necessarily mean that one was a Nazi in thought.

Then why did you join? I was a young lawyer and knew I could never get anywhere ... without being in the party ...

It has also been said that you were in the Storm Troopers. That is untrue. I was only a candidate.

Then you tried to join. Why? Because I was given to understand that I had not made much of an impression in the party, and I had better do something ...

Why did you leave the party? I was regarded as pretty poor material by the Nazis, so I stepped out.

Why have you never made your past public? Because I am opposed to reopening this whole wretched de-Nazification business ..."

4. "All Generals were screened by a special parliamentary committee, nobody was appointed a general or a colonel whose record was not alright."

Obviously this special parliamentary committee was very broad-minded about who was "alright". Every single general and colonel in the present West German Bundeswehr served the nazis in a high military post. A typical example of the men regarded as "alright" by this committee is General Ferdinand Foertsch, today Inspector General of the Bundeswehr. On June 29th 1950 the Soviet War Crimes Tribunal sentenced Foertsch to 25 years imprisonment on charges including the following:

a) ordering punitive expeditions against Soviet civilians;

b) introducing particularly cruel conditions in camps for Soviet POWs;

c) ordering Soviet civilians and POWs to do forced labour on fortifications;

d) allowing troops under his command to plunder and commit bestial crimes against Soviet civilians and Soviet POWs.

In October 1955, Foertsch was freed from prison before the expiration of his sentence and handed over to the West German authorities. The West German authorities promptly reinstated this convicted war criminal in a high military post.

5. *"The German Ambassador in London was not a major in the SS; he was neither a member of the SS. On the contrary: he was a member of the German resistance movement and took part in several attempts to overthrow the Nazi government."*

The facts. The West German Embassy spokesman is quite correct. Hasso von Etzdorf, West German Ambassador in London, was not a major in the black-uniformed SS; he was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the brown-uniformed SA, Hitler's notorious storm troops. This authentic information may be found in White Paper No. 3465 published by the West German Parliament in May 1952. The same White Paper notes that Etzdorf joined the Nazi Party on June 1st 1933 and held membership No. 3,286,356.

Etzdorf's "resistance record" consisted of circulating amongst a circle of Hitler's generals in 1939 a memorandum suggesting that perhaps Hitler was over-reaching himself, and it might be a good idea to conclude peace. The noted British historian Sir Lewis Namier quoted part of the Etzdorf memorandum in his book "In the Nazi Era" published in London in 1952, and commented: "Thus the Munich frontier, which included some 800,000 Czechs in Germany, was claimed as just, while part or whole of the Polish corridor and of Upper Silesia was claimed without reference to 'ethnology'; and it was fully and pleasurably realised that such a settlement would give Germany the whip hand over the 'rumps' of these two nations. The 'good Germans' visibly change into Hitler profiteers."

All of the comments made in the West German Embassy letter are misleading or downright false. Let us recapitulate:

1. Oberlaender is in fact a convicted war criminal.

2. Globke did the legal dirty work for Eichmann's "final solution of the Jewish problem".

3. Schroeder himself has stated that he joined the Nazi Party to get ahead, and makes no mention of his "partly-Jewish wife".

4. A convicted war criminal today commands the West German Bundeswehr.

5. A Nazi Party member and Storm Troop officer is today West German Ambassador to London.

GERMAN REPORT will be delighted to send more fully documented details of the careers of all these men to any reader interested. If any reader would like to send us copies of similar correspondence with the West German Embassies in London or elsewhere, we shall gladly supply the true facts in the case.

Case History Number Two

In a second case, another employee of the West German Embassy in London has recently tried to bamboozle members of the British public. Here are the full facts of the case, as given in the columns of "The British Weekly", a leading inter-denominational Christian journal published in London.

The first extract below comes from "The British Weekly" of July 12th, and the second from "The British Weekly" of August 23rd:

There are still plenty of genuine nazis around in Germany, but over there they find it pays to pretend that they are all good democrats now. Sometimes the mask slips a little, however.

A couple of months ago the West German Association of Nazi Persecutees filed charges against two men, accusing them of helping to murder the German Communist leader, Ernst Thaelmann, in Buchenwald Concentration camp on August 18th, 1944. One man is a bank clerk and the other, former SS Staff Sergeant Wolfgang Otto, teaches in a girls' school. Otto has already been in prison, sentenced in 1947 by an American court for his part in murdering foreign inmates of Buchenwald. He was released under an amnesty in 1952 and got a job as a teacher. Another accusation, that of murdering by torture three Canadian airmen, has also been brought against him.

When the charges were filed with the courts the police at first did nothing. Then, several weeks later, they opened proceedings against a man — not one of the accused but the man who had collected the evidence against them, former concentration camp inmate Ludwig Landwehr. He has been charged with "continuing illegally the activities of the Communist Party of Germany." (The Communist Party is banned in West Germany.) Meanwhile, Wolfgang Otto continues to teach little girls.

The British Weekly, July 12th 1962

In our issue of July 12, Derek Walker wrote about the case of Wolfgang Otto and Ludwig Landwehr. A reader, Mr. H. Walcot of Shrewsbury, sent a cutting of the Note to the West German Embassy in London, and received the following letter in reply:

Dear Mr. Walcot, — I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 13th. My comment on the allegations made in THE BRITISH WEEKLY is as follows:

It is possible that Mr. Ludwig Landwehr, who filed the charges against the two alleged murderers of Thaelmann, is on trial for continuing the activities of the banned Communist Party. But if he is, it has nothing to do with his accusations against the above named persons. The paper tries to insinuate that such a connection exists. This is unfair, especially since it knows that the insinuation is not true.

If Wolfgang Otto has had a hand in the murder of Thaelmann he will be punished and not, as the paper implies, go scot-free. It is impossible that he should have been released under an amnesty in 1952 if he was convicted of having assisted in the murder of Buchenwald inmates. There is no amnesty for murderers. Perhaps his release was due to the fact that the murder charge could not be substantiated. The fact that he allegedly obtained a job as a teacher proves this. One cannot become a

teacher in Germany with a criminal record.

Quite understandably, Wolfgang Otto will continue teaching as long as he is not convicted. I do not think there is anything wrong with that.

We thank you for the interest you take in matters concerning our country.

Signed: Dr. T. Stelzenmuller

Derek Walker comments on Dr. Stelzenmuller's letter, as follows:

It is clear from his very inadequate reply that Dr. Stelzenmuller has not taken the trouble to check the facts of the case.

Wolfgang Otto was put on trial before an American Military Court in Dachau on April 11th, 1947. The Chairman of the Court was Brigadier-General Emil Kiel, chief prosecutor Mr. William D. Denson, defence attorney Major Carl Whitney. Tried along with him were 30 others, the most seriously implicated among 1,000 suspected personnel of Buchenwald. They were charged with, among other things, "the killing, beating, torturing, starving, misuse and dishonourable treatment of people, whose exact names and numbers are not known, but who were many thousand in number."

The American-licensed West German newspaper, "Frankfurter Rundschau", reported in its issue of August 16th, 1947: "Wolfgang Otto, former SS-Oberscharfuehrer, who was found guilty of mistreating prisoners and taking part in executions, received a prison sentence of 20 years." So there can be no doubt about Otto's guilt.

When he was released on March 6th, 1952, it was one of a series of "acts of clemency" by the American authorities, and there was no question of any doubt about the justice of his sentence. (This was the time when the Americans had decided that the rearmament of West Germany was necessary.)

Soon after being released Otto applied for a teaching job in the province of North Rhine, Westphalia. His application was dealt with by Kurt Baurichter, Regierungs-President of Dusseldorf. The West German magazine Spiegel described what happened in its issue of June 20th, 1962:

"Baurichter recalls today: I did have certain doubts about Otto, but he had a whole series of Persil-Scheine (a German term for letter of recommendation saying that the person in question had never really been a Nazi. — D.W.). The most important Persil-Schein came from the Federal Ministry of the Interior. In answer to an enquiry from Dusseldorf, the Bonn official Grigo wrote on December 1st, 1953,that 'after checking the documents available to me it is not intended' to open disciplinary proceedings against teaching applicant Otto.

"Baurichter stated: 'That meant, in practice, that we had to employ Otto.'"

Otto became a teacher at Goch, near Kleve, and in 1954 the Roman Catholic Bishop of Muenster conferred upon him the "Missio" which entitled him to give Roman Catholic religious instruction. In 1959, he went to St. Michael's (primary) School, Geldern.

The authorities were not ignorant of his past. Soon after he was appointed to the teaching post in Geldern he was examined by the local police in connection with his activities in Buchenwald. "Spiegel" reported on June 20th, 1962:

"When he was examined by the public prosecutor in Kleve he stated that his duties as Oberscharfuehrer included being present at 'official executions'; he recorded the proceedings in 35 cases of hanging prisoners in the crematorium cellars; in eight cases he had been one of the execution squad when foreign agents were shot in the stable ..."

So, although by his own admission, Otto had taken part in concentration camp murders, he was allowed to go on teaching.

I have now learnt, however, that after he had been accused by Ludwig Landwehr of taking part in the execution of Thaelmann, and after Thaelmann's widow had filed charges of murder, Otto was suspended from his teaching job — on May 28th, 1962 Apparently someone in authority does not share Dr. Stelzenmuller's opinion when he says: "I do not think there is anything wrong with that."

But Landwehr was not the first to accuse Otto of being implicated in the murder of Thaelmann. In its report of the trial on April 22th, 1947, the "Frankfurter Rundschau" quoted statements of witnesses that Otto was present at the execution. The West German paper went on: "The United States will transfer this case to the German courts so that they can punish the guilty parties." (American courts proceeded only against crimes committed against non-German nationals.)

That was fifteen years ago but the case never was transferred. Now Otto has been suspended from his teaching job, but he has not (at the time of writing) been arrested and brought to trial. Perhaps he will be, now that people overseas are beginning to take an interest in the case.

The inference that the arrest of Ludwig Landwehr may have been connected with the charges he brought against Otto arises from the facts as stated, and not from any interpretation that I put upon them. It is a remarkable coincidence that he should have been arrested soon after his accusation had caused a public scandal.

I feel that my suggestion that all is not well in the administration of justice in West Germany was completely vindicated by what happened in the same week that it was published. On July 11th, West Germany's newly appointed chief prosecutor, Wolfgang Fraenkel, was pensioned off (on about £150 a month) when it was disclosed that he had been a committed Nazi and had been involved in passing death sentences under Hitler's laws. And on June 30 the enforced retirement of 143 West German judges and public prosecutors who were similarly implicated took effect.

But these men were only forced out of office after a long struggle in which the mounting pressure of public opinion — especially public opinion outside Germany — played a decisive part. And for ten years or more thousands of people have been involved in a huge conspiracy of silence to shield and maintain them in office.

I believe that all who feel friendship toward the people of Germany, East and West (as distinct from the regimes that rule them) will do what they can to ensure that ex-nazi criminals are not allowed to occupy posts of responsibility and influence, and that the crimes they committed are not treated as if they were of no importance.

("The British Weekly", August 23rd 1962)

Autumn Trade Fair in Leipzig

Leipzig's annual Autumn Trade Fair, devoted to consumer goods, again proved to be the world's main meeting place for traders and businessmen from East and West during a hectic week in early September. 6500 firms from 49 different countries exhibited their wares — including everything from camping goods and lingerie to books and porcelain.

GDR trade authorities announced that exports to both socialist and non-socialist countries would increase by 12% in 1963, and that imports would also go up correspondingly, so there were many opportunities to buy consumer goods made in the GDR; many foreign visitors commented on the great progress made in improving their quality and variety. Prominent among GDR export articles are textiles, optical and precision instruments, office machinery and books.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Regular readers of GERMAN REPORT had better brace themselves in the coming months for increasing mention in this Notebook and elsewhere in the paper of the school system of the GDR. The reason is that I and Allen Mann, my assistant, have just packed our six-year-old offspring off to their first days at school, and so for the first time we are going to have a look at schools from the inside, and not simply as outside observers.

Festivity

I was interested to discover that in the GDR, and I believe in Germany generally, the operation of starting school entails more festivity and ceremony than it does in Britain. On her first day at school, my daughter Miriam was picked up at home by two elder children, and escorted ceremoniously to her new school, carrying for the first time her school satchel and an enormous "school cone", a big inverted dunces' cap which has to be filled to the brim with fruit, biscuits and sweets. The idea of this sort of Christmas stocking seems to be to bribe the child into enjoying his or her first day at school.

Arriving at the school, the new pupils and their parents were all taken to the assembly hall, where a class of slightly older children piped several songs and did a little country dance to show what they had learned during their first year.

Then the children were led off (after the inevitable scuffle when one little boy was sick from excitement) to see their classrooms and drink cocoa with their teachers, while the parents remained to listen to a short speech from the headmaster.

Predictable

Many of the things which he said were predictable: please don't do your children's homework for them; don't give them too much pocket money; do see to it that they have peace and quiet to do their school tasks. But there was one aspect of his short talk which will probably surprise people in western countries who have swallowed the propaganda line that the aim of socialism is to abolish the family: the main thread running through his whole discourse was that the family had the main job to do in producing a well-rounded younger generation — the school could only help.

The first day at school was soon over, because there were no lessons, and soon all the little boys and girls were streaming home again, all set to badger their parents into allowing them to guzzle the contents of the "school cones".

A day or two earlier, my daughter Miriam had another little school-starters' party at the nursery school she has been attending for the past three years. The surprise number at this party was when the whole top class of the nursery school stood up and sang, in English, "Polly put the kettle on", in which she had been privately coaching them.

What I found more interesting was another song they sang. It went something like this:

"A little lad from Africa
Went walking through the land,
When up came a child from China,
And took him by the hand."

These two were then joined by other children from the GDR, West Germany, the Soviet Union, Poland, Switzerland and America, and the final verse said:

"They all of them were happy,
And all linked their hands,
We always want to be good friends,
And have peace in our lands."

I have quoted this little song at some length because I hope it may help to dispose of the western propaganda legend that children in "the East" are taught to hate "the West".

That is probably enough about schools for today; as I said at the beginning of the notebook, you are likely to get more in the future.

Back to Adam

West German Transport Minister Hans-Christoph Seebohm is famed for his rather far-out speeches, but he seems to have broken his own records this time. On July 29th at a meeting of Sudeten Germans expelled from Czechoslovakia after World War Two, he stated:

"The task of the Sudeten Germans is to claim the right of self-determination not only for themselves but for all peoples living behind the Iron Curtain. We want to have our old homeland, not because of our property rights, but in order to fulfil a task which God set Adam in Paradise."

I have patiently combed the book of Genesis, but I regret to report I cannot find a word about Adam being given the task of conquering East Europe for the neo-nazis. Perhaps I have the wrong sort of Bible.

Choice

Italian author Carlo Levi has just published in English an extremely interesting account of a visit to post-war Germany, entitled "The Two-Fold Night" (Cresset Press, London, 16s.). Memorable is his note on the divided city of Berlin:

"Each of the two half cities tended to carry to the extreme the principles of the world that governed it, inflating those principles to the utmost under what is considered the searchlight of world opinion. On the one side, individual liberty, abundance, wealth, modern taste, decadence, indifference, finesse, personal inequality; on the other, ability, work, sacrifice, equality, participation, the feeling of a collective community."

Pay your penny and take your choice.

Promotion

Everybody knows that the US Pentagon and big business work hand in hand, but I found a particularly clear case of this in an article in the London "Sunday Telegraph" on September 2nd:

"General Steinbach, 51, former Head of the American Government's Military Aid and Assistance Group in Bonn, was largely responsible for persuading Herr Strauss to adopt the plane (Lockheed Starfighter) for NATO. He recently retired from the army. I can reveal that Lockheed's have now appointed him their chief European representative for the Starfighter programme."

Correction

In our issues of July 20th and August 3rd we reprinted a fascinating article by Yvonne Kapp entitled "Some Reflections on Brecht". Owing to an editorial oversight, the article was attributed to "Mainstream", New York. In fact this article was first printed by "Marxism Today", London, and only reprinted by "Mainstream".

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